



December 5, 2011

Michael Machado
Delta Protection Commission
P.O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, California 95690

Dear Mr. Machado,

The Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council fully supports a National Heritage Area (NHA) designation for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We understand NHA will offer the Delta visibility and recognition as a place of significant national importance. We recognize the NHA is a tool to support the preservation and enhancement of the region's recreational, ecological, historical and agricultural resources, and the vital role it can play for economic sustainability and public education.

The Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council is a nonprofit corporation helping to develop and maintain the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail – a 300-mile non-motorized, multi-use trail system roughly following the Mokelumne River through six counties from its headwaters at the Sierra crest down to the river's opening near Martinez at Carquinez Strait in the Bay Area. 150 miles are in various stages of completion. The trail's Delta segment follows the Mokelumne River through the Delta. Activities along this segment could include kayaking, floating, boating, bird watching, and possibly land trail activities where feasible. The MCCT can support proposed themes for the Delta NHA, particularly theme 1 – 'At the Heart of California Lies America's Inland Delta.' A significant component of this theme is the Delta's unique landscape as a confluence of five rivers, which includes the Mokelumne River. The MCCT can be a valuable resource to help further gain appreciation of the Mokelumne River in its current state, as well as its natural and cultural history.

The Delta segment of the MCCT is in the pre-planning phase with the Trail Council working with public and private agencies and individuals to determine alignment through the Delta region, map the trail, and secure funding to construct the trail segment. The MCCT could serve as partners for NHA activities that are related to the planning, recognition, enhancement, and development of the MCCT or resource sites that support the MCCT. The development of visitor amenities such as public restrooms, garbage receptacles, directional signage, and dockage is included as a goal for the Delta NHA, and the Trail Council could potentially serve as partners to meet this goal on projects that lie along the MCCT.

Once again, we strongly urge your favorable consideration to designate the Delta as a NHA and look forward to future collaborative opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Boblet

Mary Boblet
Secretary/Treasurer